

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings incorporate the changes from the corrected drawings submitted with the May 28, 2004 Amendment and replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets Figs. 1-2

REMARKS

Claims 21-27 and 49 are pending. By this Amendment, Figs. 1 and 2 are replaced pursuant to the attached drawing sheets, and claims 30, 32-34, 36-40 and 42-48 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Final Office Action indicates that claims 21-27 and 49 are allowed. The Examiner is also thanked for withdrawing the earlier rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Amendment Entry after Final Rejection

The foregoing amendments do not raise any new issues after Final Rejection. Therefore, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

II. Request for Acknowledgement that References are Considered of Record

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed with the December 6, 2004 Amendment After Final Rejection. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449 to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the cited disclosed information.

III. The Prior Art Rejections are Moot

The Final Office Action rejects claims 30, 34 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 5,185,712 to Sato *et al.* (hereinafter "Sato") in view of U.S. Patent 5,144,203 to Fujita *et al.* (hereinafter "Fujita"); claims 32, 36, 37, 39, 42, 43 and 45-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of Fujita and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,507,745 to Forrest *et al.* (hereinafter "Forrest"); and claims 33, 38 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in

view of Fujita and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,091,382 to Shioya *et al.* (hereinafter "Shioya"). These rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 30, 32-34, 36-40 and 42-48. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GWT/gwt

Attachment:
Replacement Drawing Sheets (Figs. 1-2)

Date: January 14, 2005

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